

Mr. Anderson



PRESS RELEASE

INFORMATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
OTTAWA - CANADA

NO. 16

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 28, 1950.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs today issued the following statement:

"Canadians today learned with profound shock of the disaster near Ottawa which brought sudden and tragic death to a distinguished group of Americans, including the United States Ambassador to Canada and members of his staff. To every Canadian who knew him, to thousands more who had seen him or heard him speak, Laurence Steinhardt had come to symbolize the vigorous, friendly spirit of goodwill and co-operation which characterize relations between Canada and the country he represented with such great distinction. His tragic death will be a loss both to the United States and Canada, and to his government and his people we extend our deep sympathy. We also express our sorrow to the families of those who were lost. For them, the tragedy which we all feel is particular and personal, and we sympathize with them in their grief."

Following is the text of a message sent by the Secretary of State for External Affairs to Dean Acheson, United States Secretary of State:

"The tragic death of your Ambassador and his colleagues from the United States Embassy here has shocked and saddened this capital today. Throughout Canada the frank and friendly attitude of Laurence Steinhardt towards this country was recognized and appreciated and he had become for us a symbol of the neighbourly relations between our two countries. [His death will therefore be regarded as a loss to Canada as much as to the United States.]* Those of us who knew him personally and admired him for the great energy and understanding with which he performed his duties will feel a particular sense of grief. May I extend to you the sympathy of the Canadian people in the loss to your country of so experienced and distinguished a member of your service, and equally in the loss of the colleagues who accompanied him on this final journey and who with him in their work in Canada were contributing so greatly to the welfare of our two nations."

* Mr. Riddell advises that this sentence was struck out
not included from the telegram which went to Mr. Acheson.
JH Mar 29/50